

May 25, 2010

STENEHJEM ENCOURAGES PARENTS TO “TAKE 25”

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem joins the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and its “Take 25” program, which commemorates the annual National Missing Children’s Day each year on May 25. The goal of “Take 25” is to heighten awareness about children’s safety issues and to encourage parents to talk to their kids about ways to be safer.

“I am proud to support the Take 25 program,” said Stenehjem. “Over the Memorial Day weekend, I hope parents will take 25 minutes to talk to their children about staying safe, and especially about Internet safety.”

The Take 25 program is supported by national law enforcement organizations and government agencies, including the Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) program. ICAC coordinates national enforcement efforts to combat online child sexual exploitation. The Bureau of Criminal Investigation is a member of ICAC.

To help parents start the conversation, Stenehjem offered the following safety tips:

- Keep the computer in a family location where you can see what your child is doing.
- Make sure your child knows which websites are acceptable. Install a security program to block inappropriate websites. Check your child’s browsing activity.
- If your child has an e-mail account, check the content of the emails received and sent. Make sure you know what is in any attachments. Set your e-mail filter to block spam and adult content emails.
- Regularly check your child’s page on social networking sites such as “My Space” and “Facebook.”
- If your child has a cell phone, don’t forget to monitor your child’s text messages.

Stenehjem said while parents may feel as if they are intruding on their child’s privacy, it is more important that they protect their children from Internet predators. “Children form online friendships quickly and they often forget that information they post for their friends can be seen by others, including internet predators,” he said.

Parents can find more information on Internet safety on the Attorney General’s website at www.ag.nd.gov and the “Other Offender Links” on the Sex Offender website www.sexoffender.nd.gov.

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